

Oblate Missions

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate
Asociación Misionera de María Inmaculada

www.oblatemissions.org

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February 9, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission
Re: Docket Number RM2017-3
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RECEIVED

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Regulatory Commission,

Oblate Missions, Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate is a Catholic non-profit operating out of San Antonio, Texas. Our mission is to serve the poorest of the poor here in the US and around the world. In 2016 the Oblates celebrated their 200th Anniversary, St. Eugene de Mazenod the founder began his work in Aix, France in 1816. In 1857 the Oblates enter the United States in South Texas and have till this day been serving the poorest of the poor throughout the US.

Well over 50 years ago Oblate Missions started using direct mail solicitation as a way to raise funds to support their work with the most poor and abandoned. The direct mail appeals and campaigns have been the major source of operational income for the Oblates charitable efforts since those early days. Over the years US Postal rates have been on a steady increase; moreover, the Oblate Missions 2016 postal bill hit an all time high of \$2,408,768.18. This number is now almost 25% of the total operational cost here in our San Antonio, TX location.

Over the years our postal bill has grown from a less than 5% portion to its current and unsustainable rate of 25%. The current 25% cost for postage is cutting deeply into the humanitarian work we do here at Oblate Missions. The people we serve cannot afford an endless increase in postal rates, nor can we as a non-profit working with the poor afford any further postal increases. Each and every dollar we spend on postage decreases the amount of monies we have in hand to fund programs and people in need.

We here at Oblate Missions understand that there are costs involved in doing business and we are willing to pay our fair share, we just hope that the Postal Regulatory Commission understands and remembers that unlike a for-profit business we need and count on some relief from the Post Office in regards to rates and consideration for the charitable work we do in the community, the country and around the world.

Please reconsider any increases in non-profit postal rates, their impact on the poorest of the poor and how any rate increase takes food and other essentials away from the most poor and vulnerable members of society.

Sincerely Yours,



William B. Rondeau
Director of Fundraising
Oblate Missions
San Antonio, TX

Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto of the Southwest
Gruta de Lourdes / Tepeyac de San Antonio
5712 Blanco Road • San Antonio, TX 78216-6629
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I invite you to remember Oblate Missions when writing or revising your will.
Le invito a que recuerde a Oblate Missions al escribir o revisar su testamento.